UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-NINTH SESSION

Official Records

SIXTH COMMITTEE
15th meeting
held on
Friday, 21 October 1994
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 15th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. CHATURVEDI (India)
(Vice-Chairman)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 142: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 140: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of the publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.6/49/SR.15
28 October 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

94-81788 (E)

/...

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 142: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM (continued) (A/49/257 and Add.1-3; A/C.6/49/L.1; A/49/287-S/1994/894, A/49/498-S/1994/1150, A/49/510-S/1994/1158 and A/49/528)

1. Mr. PALIHAKKARA (Sri Lanka) said that while some progress had undoubtedly been made in combating terrorism in the past two decades, his delegation was concerned that preventive efforts had not kept pace with the continuous escalation of terrorist violence in many parts of the world. A comprehensive international consensus on preventive measures and political will on the part of all countries to implement such measures were long overdue; his delegation therefore supported the renewed efforts being made at the current session to conclude negotiations for a draft declaration on measures to eliminate terrorism. While his delegation would have preferred an instrument of a more binding nature, it none the less regarded the current effort as a good start.

2. Such work should not detract from the international community's commitment to support the legitimate aspirations of peoples under racist or colonial role for self-determination. Terrorism should not be confused or equated with liberation struggles. His delegation believed that the current approach aimed at developing a general definition of terrorism, was the correct one.

3. Such efforts were all the more timely in the light of several new developments in the world. On the positive side, many countries, as well as multilateral and regional organizations, were actively seeking solutions to the underlying causes of violence and terror. On the negative side, illicit arms traffic was proliferating; various extremist groups appeared to have easy access to sophisticated arsenals built up during the cold war. The linkages between terrorism, the illicit arms trade and drug trafficking had become more pronounced. Those developments brought into sharp focus the need for an international framework for the prevention and mitigation of acts of terrorism through exchanges of experience, information and investigations, and judicial action, if needed. A draft declaration could be a meaningful step in that direction. His delegation would continue to participate in the ongoing consultations, to which more time should be allocated, as suggested by Algeria.

4. With regard to the content of the draft declaration, his delegation believed that it should: focus on a general description of terrorism; emphasize the need for all States to adhere strictly to the principle that their territory should not be used for the perpetration or organization of terrorist acts against another State, especially in regions where disparities in political and military power rendered States extremely vulnerable to manipulation by terrorists; grapple with the complex issue of guaranteeing respect for the laws granting refugee and asylum status, while at the same time ensuring that those granted such status did not contribute to or incite terrorist activities in other countries; provide a sound political and legal framework for meaningful and practical measures of international cooperation based on the obligation to

prosecute or extradite; and recognize the need to coordinate global and regional cooperative activities.

5. Sri Lanka had taken the initiative within the regional forum of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to negotiate and conclude the SAARC Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism. The Convention treated offences of a terrorist nature as non-political for the purpose of extradition, thus resolving the problem of definition for the SAARC region. Where extradition was not granted for any reason, the Convention also required national courts to exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction to prosecute terrorist offenders, regardless of where the offence was committed. Sri Lanka had enacted the necessary legislation to give effect to those provisions and welcomed the recent adoption of such legislation by other South Asian countries.

6. Mr. ENAYAT (Iran) said that terrorism not only took a tragic toll in human life and disrupted social and economic development but also imperiled the security, independence and territorial integrity of States. His own country was not immune to terrorism. Most recently, in June 1994, a bombing at the religious shrine of Mashad in Iran had resulted in 26 deaths and more than 100 injuries. It was unfortunate that some of the perpetrators of that inhuman crime had found safe haven in other countries and continued to commit terrorist acts.

7. In endeavouring to counter terrorism, the international community must not limit itself to drafting legal instruments. It should work to eradicate terrorism in all its forms, an effort to which Iran would lend its full cooperation. His country was party to, had ratified and had incorporated into its domestic law several of the international conventions relating to terrorism. Furthermore, it fully endorsed the principles set forth in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolution 46/51 and 48/122.

8. In the past two decades international terrorism had taken on new dimensions and emerged in different forms. To reflect that reality, anti-terrorist measures should be aimed at preventing or combating all forms of terrorism, whether carried out by individuals, groups or States, including any acts which deprived peoples from exercising their fundamental rights.

9. His Government wished to emphasize two points with regard to the draft declaration on measures to eliminate international terrorism. First, the text should avoid any reference to religion, and secondly, the declaration should provide a clear definition of international terrorism and draw a clear distinction between terrorism and struggles for national liberation.

10. Prosecution and punishment of terrorists was clearly necessary to prevent them from repeating their crimes. Yet such measures in themselves had only limited effects. International terrorism could only be fully eradicated by identifying and eliminating its root causes, whether social, economic and political.

11. Mr. BELLOUKI (Morocco) said that illicit arms trafficking and technological advances, especially in the field of communications, had enabled international terrorists to receive world-wide media exposure. Anyone, anywhere, could be the victim of a terrorist attack. States must therefore adapt to that phenomenon and develop means for combating it.

12. His delegation vigorously condemned all terrorist acts which targeted innocent people. Such practices could not be justified for any reason. The international community must continually guard against the threat of terrorism, since intermittent action to combat it would be ineffective.

13. It was a distortion to associate Islam with terrorism. Islam was a religion based on the golden rule - a religion of peace, tolerance and moderation, which viewed life as sacred.

14. Terrorism could not be a vehicle for expressing political views. Cooperation at the subregional, regional and international levels must proceed from the principle that terrorism was a threat to all countries and to friendly relations, good-neighbourliness, stability, territorial integrity and human rights, which were the basis of international peace and security.

15. His delegation hoped that the effort to define terrorism would not impede effective cooperation between States; it also urged States not to disregard the underlying causes of terrorism. Countries which sponsored terrorist acts or permitted their national territory to be used for the purpose of planning, organizing or instigating terrorist acts against other countries acted in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles and norms of international law. His country, which was a party to numerous international instruments, would spare no effort to control terrorism.

16. Cooperation should also be aimed at preventing terrorism through ongoing exchanges of information, judicial assistance and the strengthening of anti-terrorist instruments, as well as through compliance by States with their international obligations. The United Nations, as a universal forum, should establish mechanisms for harmonizing legislative policies and centralizing data collection, so as to enable States to coordinate their efforts to eliminate terrorism. His delegation welcomed the efforts to elaborate a draft declaration on the item.

17. Ms. SHAHEN (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that her country condemned international terrorism in all its forms and had voiced the need to fight it, most recently in document A/49/257/Add.3. Acts of terrorism were subject to the most severe penalties under Libyan legislation, and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had acceded to a number of related international conventions and was in process of acceding to others.

18. During the previous session, her delegation had stressed the need for a clear definition of international terrorism, not only from the legal standpoint but for political reasons as well, for in the absence of such a definition any

State might make accusations of terrorism at will, based on a policy of double standards.

19. Her country therefore reiterated its call for an international conference under United Nations auspices to define the concept of international terrorism, examine its causes and the means of fighting it and distinguish between international terrorism, on the one hand, and, on the other, the right of peoples to self-determination and the right to support the legitimate struggle of such peoples to achieve national liberation in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/51. Her country would find it difficult to accept a draft declaration on measures to eliminate international terrorism that did not call for such a conference.

20. With regard to the linking, by some delegations, of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to international terrorism on the basis of mere suspected involvement of two Libyans in the Pan American 103 and Union de Transport Aérien (UTA) 772 bombings, the matter was essentially a legal dispute between the States competent to try the suspects and should be decided on the basis of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (1971), to which the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the United States and the United Kingdom were parties and which attributed jurisdiction for the trial of the suspects to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The two last-mentioned States, however, had rejected the application of the Convention and managed to transfer the question to the Security Council on the basis of suspicion alone. They had further rejected the arbitration provided for by the Convention in the event of disagreement concerning its interpretation or application, thus making it necessary for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to refer the matter to the International Court of Justice.

21. Her country had publicly condemned all forms of terrorism, had severed its ties with all organizations suspected of involvement in terrorist activities and had proclaimed that it would not tolerate the use of its land, nationals or institutions for such activities. It had invited the Security Council to verify its assertion that no terrorist training camps existed in its territory.

22. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had complied with many of the United Kingdom's special requests. Moreover, it had made proposals for ascertaining the responsibility of the accused, such as resorting to the International Court of Justice, turning over the suspects to the office of the United Nations Development Programme in Tripoli, having the Secretary-General set up a judicial committee to conduct a thorough investigation or conducting, under United Nations supervision, negotiations with the countries concerned with a view to holding the trial in a neutral country. It had also accepted the proposal by the League of Arab States to have the trial conducted by Scottish judges in accordance with Scots law at the seat of the International Court of Justice. The United States and the United Kingdom had rejected all those proposals, seeking to create an image of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya as an international outlaw and maintain the pretext for continued and indeed increased sanctions against it.

23. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya's initiatives and proposals and its acceptance of the proposal by the League of Arab States had been hailed by the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of Non-Aligned Countries and by the sixtieth session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, which had appealed once again to the three States concerned to respond to the efforts to negotiate a solution.

24. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya's flexible stance and its efforts towards a reasonable solution had been met with rigidity and obstinacy, dictated solely by the logic of force.

25. It was clear that the three countries in question had induced the Security Council to confine their concern about international terrorism to the Pan American and UTA incidents, intentionally linking the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya with those events for their own purposes. If the Security Council wished to concern itself with civil aviation incidents, it should have dealt also with others that had befallen Libyan, Iranian, Korean, Italian and other aircraft, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of passengers. If the Security Council wished to play a role in fighting international terrorism and preserving international peace and security, it should have done so when United States aircraft bombed Libyan towns during the night, killing innocent persons, an act which the General Assembly had condemned in its resolution 41/38, as the Security Council should have done. Such a logic of force and such double standards could only jeopardize stability and the rule of international law.

26. Ms. WILLSON (United States of America) said that international terrorism was on the rise. In the United States, terrorism had assumed a horrifying reality when militant fanatics had bombed the World Trade Center and planned to attack the United Nations building. Her Government was determined to see terrorists brought to justice and in that connection endorsed the European Community's call for full compliance with Security Council resolutions 731 (1992), 748 (1992) and 883 (1993).

27. She would refrain from commenting on the case referred to by the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. That case was currently before the International Court of Justice, which was the appropriate forum. The Sixth Committee was not the place for that debate or for any polemical discussions.

28. Universal application of the rule of law was one of the most effective ways to combat terrorism. The rule of law was a basic principle in free societies but anathema to terrorists, who endeavoured to subvert justice by demanding the release of convicted prisoners and by threatening judges and jurors involved in terrorism cases.

29. The United States fully endorsed the constructive role played by the United Nations system in facilitating cooperation among States in combating terrorism. She welcomed the fact that the conventions elaborated for that purpose had focused on specific types of inherently unacceptable acts, rather than on issues of motivation or context. That approach had enabled the international community to make substantial progress in using legal instruments to combat terrorism.

30. While most Member States were parties to the conventions dealing with aircraft sabotage, aircraft hijacking and crimes against internationally protected persons, many had not yet become party to other anti-terrorist conventions, including the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Maritime Terrorism Convention and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Airport Security Protocol, which her Government planned to ratify in the near future. In order for the entire set of anti-terrorism instruments to be effective, the parties must do everything possible to encourage other States to ratify them.

31. Bilateral and regional actions were also important in the combat against terrorism. Her Government had, at the request of the States involved, sent forensic experts to help investigate the recent bombings in Latin America. The United States State Department would be cooperating with Latin American Governments to develop a plan for combating terrorism in the Americas. As host of the 1994 Summit of the Americas, her country would propose that terrorism in the region should be a priority item on the agenda. Other joint efforts included cooperation between the United States and the Russian Federation on measures to control terrorists trafficking in nuclear materials; joint anti-terrorist training programmes with Germany and the Russian Federation; and State Department training programmes for local and foreign law enforcement personnel in areas including airport security, hostage rescue and crisis management.

32. The United States Government was coordinating research and development information from a number of federal agencies to provide an inventory of counter-terrorism projects and devices. It was also offering monetary rewards to anyone furnishing information leading to the prevention, thwarting or favourable resolution of any terrorist act against citizens or property of the United States. That programme had already prevented terrorist attacks and brought a number of terrorists to justice.

33. With regard to multilateral efforts, the United States regularly exchanged intelligence and law enforcement information with like-minded countries to help prevent or investigate terrorist acts. It would continue to pursue a vigorous counterterrorism strategy and to work with the international community to eradicate terrorism.

34. Mr. MUBARAK (Egypt) expressed his delegation's appreciation of the report on terrorism presented by the Legal Counsel. Terrorist acts, which claimed many innocent victims, were not a solution to any problem. On the contrary, they exacerbated conflicts. World events in recent years and the removal of the barriers between East and West had made it possible to solve many problems which had appeared for years to be intractable. However, it should be stressed that solutions had to be equitable, as they would not otherwise provide a conclusive settlement of the problem.

35. The fundamental principles underlying the fight against terrorism were: universal respect for international law, non-aggression, the settlement of conflicts by peaceful means and the guaranteeing of peoples' legitimate right to

self-determination. Countries should also undertake not to shelter or train terrorists, or to finance, encourage or incite them to perpetrate terrorist acts in other countries. Pursuant to international conventions, those responsible for acts of terror should be brought to court. Egypt had ratified all the international conventions relating to terrorism, including the 1963 Tokyo Convention, the 1970 Hague Convention, the 1971 Montreal Convention and General Assembly resolutions 3166 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973 and 46/51 of 9 December 1991. In the previous year alone, Egypt had ratified four bilateral agreements relating to the extradition of criminals. In 1992, the Egyptian criminal code and penal procedure code relating to terrorism had been altered pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/51, and in order to bring Egyptian laws into line with international conventions to which Egypt had become a party.

36. The international community should focus its attention on eliminating terrorism so as to protect innocent people and civilians from random acts of violence. However, it was necessary to bear in mind the rights given under international law to people living under occupation, and their right to self-determination. Ignoring those rights would cause despair and provoke further acts of terror in future. It was illogical and unacceptable to think that all the rights to self-determination guaranteed by the United Nations Charter and by several international conventions and United Nations resolutions, which had been used by many countries to help gain their independence, should suddenly have become outdated and in need of alteration, and that they should be ignored when new agreements on terrorism were being ratified.

37. International terrorism could not be dealt with by further international legislation or the holding of new conferences, which took up a great deal of time and energy without achieving their desired end. However, multilateral agreements and international charters had laid the foundations for a cohesive legal system to counteract terrorism by means of international cooperation and complete commitment to the implementation of those agreements. Such cooperation could have positive results only if it was accompanied by a consensus of views and the readiness of every country to participate in the work of the whole to that end, since it was impossible for any one State or group to work in isolation. Accordingly, it was important to maintain the consensus which had been reached at previous sessions.

38. Mr. NATHON (Hungary) expressed his delegation's appreciation of the Secretary-General's report on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/49/257 and Add.1 and 2), together with the introduction by the Legal Counsel. The two conventions in respect of which the Secretary-General performed depositary functions and the eight international instruments in respect of which the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency performed depositary functions were all part and parcel of Hungary's domestic legislation. Furthermore, various forms of terrorist activities had been incorporated into the Hungarian Criminal Code, with the maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

39. With regard to the preparation of a draft declaration on measures to eliminate international terrorism, he said that although there was manifestly

broad agreement on the major aspects of terrorism and the necessity to fight it, approaches on how to do so varied. His delegation believed that a broad and comprehensive legal framework had already been established for that purpose, including a wide range of international legal instruments, General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and national legislation, and it therefore favoured the implementation of the existing rules, resolutions and domestic norms of law.

40. It followed that his delegation did not believe that the international community needed to elaborate a "framework" convention, although it did not question the good will or the cogent legal arguments of States which advocated a comprehensive and binding legal instrument. It was clear that delegations held widely differing views on certain issues, such as the definition and the causes of terrorism and its impact on bilateral relations; any attempt to work out a comprehensive legal instrument would therefore almost inevitably fail, a result which could be counterproductive with regard to further progress in fighting international terrorism and could thereby jeopardize international cooperation on the matter. It would be preferable for all States to implement the relevant existing rules. In that connection he drew the Committee's attention to the fruitful cooperation which had been developed both between Hungary and its neighbours and between States members of the European Union and those of the Commonwealth of Independent States on fighting organized crime and terrorism. His delegation shared the concern over the growing links between terrorist groups and arms or drug traffickers.

41. His delegation was in general agreement with the idea of giving an increased role to the United Nations and its relevant agencies in fighting international terrorism by making use of the existing legal instruments and urging States to implement them scrupulously. It had, however, some misgivings over the proposals that the Secretariat should establish a centre to deal with international terrorism, collecting and analysing data on various aspects of the problem and providing technical assistance to States in matters relating to the struggle against terrorism. Its belief was that apart from certain activities on which consensus was emerging - such as making periodic studies on the status and implementation of relevant legal instruments and preparing a compendium of national laws and bilateral and regional agreements on matters relating to the fight against terrorism - the United Nations was not in a position to play a more active part in that field, owing to its limited expertise and to financial constraints. It would be far better to draw on the experience accumulated in bilateral or regional cooperation among States and to promote cooperation with international agencies active in the field.

42. Hungary categorically rejected and condemned international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whatever political, philosophical or religious considerations might be invoked to justify it. It could be most effectively fought by the strict implementation by States of their obligations under international law, by denying a safe haven to terrorists and by ensuring that the perpetrators of terrorist acts were prosecuted or extradited.

43. Mr. AL-SABEEH (Kuwait) said that the suffering caused by terrorism was all the greater for the fact that certain Member States encouraged it and were involved in exporting and financing it. Kuwait had had bitter experience with terrorism as a result of the acts of aggression and other practices directed against it by the ruling regime in Baghdad.

44. Iraq had accepted Security Council resolution 687 (1991), including the provisions of its paragraph 32 requiring Iraq to inform the Security Council that it would not commit or support any act of international terrorism or allow any organization directed towards commission of such acts to operate within its territory and to condemn unequivocally and renounce all acts, methods and practices of terrorism. It nevertheless continued to train terrorist organizations in its territory and elsewhere and to support, finance, practice and encourage international terrorism. The surest evidence of that had been Iraq's massing of more than 60,000 troops on Kuwait's borders in early October 1994.

45. The ruling clique in Baghdad had spared no effort or expense to destroy people, countries and the environment. It had dispatched terrorists to commit sabotage and assassinations, it sheltered and protected terrorist organizations and it had committed aggression against neighbouring countries and occupied their territory. Having brought the oppressed Iraqi people to submission through murder and torture, the regime had attacked its neighbour to the east, thereby ushering in an eight-year period in which almost 1 million innocent people had been killed to satisfy the whims of a despotic ruler.

46. International solidarity was the only guarantee of success in the struggle against terrorism, and it required practical and effective measures in the framework of bilateral, regional and international cooperation. They included: unconditional condemnation of terrorist acts, methods and practices; respect for the integrity, security and sovereignty of States and non-interference in their internal affairs; compliance by States with their obligations under international law to refrain from, inter alia, participating in terrorist activities, and to extradite terrorists and cooperate in their apprehension and prosecution; cooperation in the exchange of information relevant to the prevention and suppression of terrorism; harmonization of internal legislation with existing international conventions; and accession to and compliance with the relevant bilateral, regional and international conventions.

47. Ms. MAWHINNEY (Canada) said that the broad range of legal instruments adopted by the international community over the past three decades could be an effective response to the challenge of terrorism. She urged States to ratify those conventions and to enforce them through strong domestic legislation and international cooperation.

48. The Sixth Committee was well on its way to completing its draft declaration on measures to eliminate international terrorism, which would demonstrate that the international community was unified in its condemnation of terrorism. The draft recognized the criminal acts associated with terrorism and spoke out forcefully against terrorism in all its forms. It also included some concrete

measures which would make more information available to the authorities involved and expand international cooperation.

49. The draft declaration should be unequivocal in its condemnation of terrorism and must appeal to States to assist each other in their fight against that common enemy. The international community must remain steadfast and send a clear message to terrorists that their activities would not be tolerated and that States were working together to eliminate terrorism regardless of the cause involved.

50. Mr. VILLAGRAN-KRAMER (Guatemala) said that defining terrorism was as problematic as defining aggression. It was perhaps for that reason that the tendency thus far had been to define terrorism in terms of particular acts rather than in general terms. That was reflected in the international conventions relating to terrorism, each of which was concerned with a specific type of act. His country had already ratified six of those conventions and hoped to ratify the remainder in the near future.

51. There were substantive legal elements concerning terrorism on which States must reach agreement. His delegation supported the idea of a working group within the Sixth Committee to draft a declaration on measures to eliminate international terrorism. However, it was not in favour of convening an international conference to define terrorism.

52. The United Nations had played and continued to play an important role in the combat against terrorism. The Security Council had made an important contribution by establishing levels of responsibility. Substantial efforts were being made to encourage States which had not done so to ratify the relevant conventions.

53. The Sixth Committee naturally approached the issue of terrorism from a legal standpoint while remaining fully aware of its political implications. States must recognize that terrorism constituted an international crime and, as a corollary, that terrorism was the concern of the international community as a whole rather than of particular States which had been victims of terrorist acts. The Committee should emphasize the view of terrorism as an international crime; such a crime incurred responsibility on the part of those who had committed it as well as on the part of the State which had endorsed or encouraged such acts without taking the appropriate preventive measures.

54. In its consideration of measures to eliminate international terrorism, the Sixth Committee should bear in mind the closely related efforts of the International Law Commission as reflected in its work on the draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind and on the statute for an international criminal tribunal.

55. The United Nations should not encourage impunity; rather it should strengthen the principle of aut dedere aut judicare, which obliged States, in cases where the author of a criminal act was not subject to extradition, to hand over or bring to justice the party involved.

56. In its statement contained in document A/49/257, Ecuador had rightly stressed the link between terrorists and drug traffickers. His delegation firmly supported United Nations efforts to deal with the problem of drug trafficking and in particular efforts by the United States to address that problem in the Americas.

57. Mr. MARTENS (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union and Austria, said that the convening of an international conference for the purpose of defining terrorism would constitute a departure from the approach taken by the European Union, as set forth in document A/49/257. In dealing with terrorism, it was preferable to avoid generalities and to focus instead on combating specific acts of terrorism. Furthermore, the convening of such a conference might perpetuate the misconception that there was a link between terrorism and the exercise of the right of self-determination. No practical results could be expected from such a conference. While the characteristics of terrorism were sufficiently known, past experience showed that defining terrorism presented insurmountable difficulties.

58. The delegations on whose behalf he spoke saw no merit in creating a working group entrusted with the elaboration of a convention dealing with the question of definition of terrorism or other general matters.

59. Mr. HASAN (Iraq), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Kuwait had spoken of matters outside the purview of the Committee and had used unsuitable language. Iraq had condemned terrorism in all its forms; it was fully committed to the complete elimination of terrorism. Far from supporting terrorism, it had suffered from it: two days earlier an explosion had taken place in the building of the Ministry of Religious Affairs; and indeed the statement by the representative of Kuwait was in its way a form of terrorism, in that it sought to prolong the blockade of Iraq and to hamper the implementation of Security Council resolutions. He invited the international community to draw the appropriate conclusions from the statement of the representative of Kuwait.

60. Mr. AL-SABEEH (Kuwait), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, if the representative of Iraq could term Kuwait's condemnation of Iraq an act of terrorism, he needed a lesson on the definition of terrorism. He must have forgotten the events of August 1990, as well as the action Iraq had taken against the Kurds, against the people of southern Iraq and against the Iraqi people themselves, who had been killed or tortured in vast numbers or had had their homes destroyed. As for the lifting of sanctions, it was a matter for the Security Council. If Iraq had intended to renounce terrorism and have the sanctions lifted or relaxed, he wondered why there were 60,000 troops massed on the Kuwaiti border. Iraq had to answer not only that question, but also why thousands of Iraqis were leaving the country, why an attempt had been made to assassinate a former President of the United States of America and many other questions. He called on Iraq to renounce terrorism and respect Security Council resolutions on a basis of respect and friendship.

61. Mr. HASAN (Iraq), speaking in exercise of reply, said that the remarks of the representative of Kuwait were nonsensical and did not merit a reply.

62. Mr. AL-SABEEH (Kuwait), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his country's support of Security Council resolutions was clearly justified if the representative of Iraq believed that they were mere words, with no sense.

AGENDA ITEM 140: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

63. The CHAIRMAN announced that Belarus, Ecuador, Guinea, Guyana, Kenya, New Zealand, the Philippines, Portugal, Slovakia, South Africa and Spain had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.6/49/L.3.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.